

10 February 1954

STAT

The Honorable Robert Cutler  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Bobby:

I have gone over the proposed terms of reference for the staff study to be made by the Special Staff of the OCB relating to the exploitation of Soviet vulnerabilities. I have no particular comments on the proposed terms of reference. I take them to authorize primarily a summary study of existing documentation, such as NSC papers, research projects, etc. and not to contemplate a survey of existing covert operations of this Agency so recently reviewed by the Jackson Committee. I should appreciate it if it could be arranged that in their contacts with this Agency, the Special Staff coordinate their work through Mr. Richard Bissell (or an assistant of his) who will be following the further developments of this project for me.

In connection with the proposed study, I would remind you that we have had a closely related investigation underway here for the past five months. This is the [redacted] undertaken pursuant to the recommendations of the Jackson Committee, to examine, in the light of known Soviet vulnerabilities, the development of new cold war weapons and techniques. Naturally, this exercise has involved another look at vulnerabilities and has focused directly on possible new means for their exploitation. We expect to have it fully completed by the end of March, but meanwhile its preliminary results could be made available informally to the Special Staff of the OCB. Although this will only be of indirect help to them in the task of summarizing accepted U. S. policies and practices, it should serve to suggest some of the areas in which a further development of policy may be called for.

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Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

Handcarried to STAT  
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by [redacted]  
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Special